

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for reducing power consumption in infrared-enabled appliances having power supply means and transceiver system means forming a circuit including switch means, comprising:

a discovery signal receiver and power actuator module, said module configured to recognize incident Ir discovery signals and responsively activate said switch means.

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein said discovery signal receiver and power actuator module further comprises:

an infrared receiver; and

discovery signal detection circuitry configured to recognize infrared discovery signals incident to said receiver and emit a power-up signal to said switch means.

3. The device of Claim 2, wherein said discovery signal receiver and power actuator module consumes less than one milliampere of electrical current.

4. The device of Claim 2, wherein said power-up signal can be instigated by user input.

5. The device of Claim 2, wherein said switch means defines an open condition and a closed condition, said closed condition being activated upon receipt of said power-up signal.

6. The device of Claim 5, wherein electrical power is supplied to said transceiver system means when said switch means is in said closed condition, and said power is interrupted to said transceiver system means when said switch means is in said open condition.

7. The device of Claim 5, wherein said transceiver system means can instigate said power-up signal.

8. The device of Claim 3, wherein said discovery signal comprises a 9600 baud infrared signal incident upon said infrared receiver.

9. A system for reducing power consumption in infrared-enabled appliances having power supply means and transceiver system means forming a circuit, comprising:

a low power standby module means for detecting incident Ir discovery signals, said circuit being responsive to said low power standby module means.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein said transceiver system means defines a standby mode, and a full-power mode, said standby mode being activated by said low power standby module means.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said low power standby module means is integral to said transceiver system means.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said circuit further comprises switch means for switching between said standby mode and said full-power mode.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said switch means is responsive to a power-up signal.

14. The system of Claim 12, wherein said power-up signal is generated by said low power standby power module means in response to said detection of an infrared discovery signal.

15. A method for reducing power consumption in infrared-enabled appliances having power supply means and transceiver system means forming a circuit, comprising:

powering down said transceiver system means to a low power standby state;

detecting at least one incident Ir discovery signal; and

powering up said transceiver system means to a full power state.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said powering up is performed in response to said detecting.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said powering up is further performed in response to user input.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said detecting is performed by a discovery signal receiver and power actuator module means.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said detecting is performed by a discrete discovery signal receiver and power actuator module means.

20. The method of Claim 18, wherein said detecting is performed by an discovery signal receiver and power actuator module means that is integral to said transceiver system means.

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